and basic human needs like health, education, water and sanitation as the areas for possible assistance.

Customs duty on Chemicals and Fertilizers

4326. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been urged upon Government to arrest the steep fall in the basic customs duty on chemicals and fertilizers;

(b) if so, the present rate of customs duty being charged from chemicals and fertilizers;

(c) whether the Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers have also recommended that the customs duty on capital goods and spare parts be reduced to make the project import cheaper; and

(d) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Some representations were received for maintaining the basic customs duty on chemicals.

(b) The general rate of basic customs duty on chemicals is 30%, and on fertilizers 5%. However, specified chemicals and fertilizers attract lower rates of duty.

(c) Yes, Sir. Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals and Department of Fertilizers had requested for reduction in customs duty on capital goods and spare parts.

(d) The recommendations were examined. However, it has not been possible to acced to the same.

Working capital for small scale sector

4327. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industries has *inter alia* suggested Government to have a sub target within priority sector lending to promote alternative sources of finance, to establish an independent credit rating agency and to make the Nayak Committee norms regarding working capital applicable